



AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES BULLETIN

Message for U.S. Citizens

December 2012 – January 2013

Embassy Closings

The U.S. Embassy will be officially closed on the following dates:

December 25 th , Tuesday	- Christmas
January 1 st , Tuesday	- New Year
January 21st, Monday	- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
February 9th-13 th (Sat.-Wed.)	- Chinese (Lunar) New Year
February 18 th Monday	- President's Day

Special Notice from Social Security Administration

Social Security Announces 1.7 Percent Benefit Increase for 2013

([Printer friendly version](#))

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 62 million Americans will increase 1.7 percent in 2013, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that more than 56 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2013. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2012.

Information about Medicare changes for 2013, when announced, will be available at www.Medicare.gov. For some beneficiaries, their Social Security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Contact information for the nearest SSA office:

Social Security Division
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Regional Office
American Embassy
1131 Roxas Boulevard
Ermita 0930 Manila, Philippines

Phone: 632-301-2000, extensions 6302, 6319, and 5085

Fax: 632-522-1514

E-mail: fbu.manila@ssa.gov

Vital Records

Is it time to renew your Chinese visas ? Do you have all the required vital records certificates? (Link provided for Chinese Visa requirements if you are in the United States http://www.travelchinaguide.com/embassy/united_states.htm)

The links below are provided for those users who want direct access to individual state and territory information. To use this valuable tool, you must first determine the state or area where the birth, death, marriage, or divorce occurred, then click on that state or area. Please follow the provided [guidelines](#) to ensure an accurate response to your request.

The federal government does not distribute certificates, files, or indexes with identifying information for vital records. Applications for passports can be obtained through the [U.S. State Department](#). Family issues such as marriage, divorce, death, and birth abroad can be found at this [site](#).

[PDF Version](#)  (380 KB)

<u>A</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>Missouri</u>
<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Hawaii</u>	<u>Montana</u>
<u>Alaska</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>American Samoa</u>	<u>Idaho</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>
<u>Arizona</u>	<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Nevada</u>
<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>New Hampshire</u>
<u>C</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>New Jersey</u>
<u>California</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>New Mexico</u>
<u>Canal Zone</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>New York (except New York City)</u>
<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	<u>New York City</u>
<u>Connecticut</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>North Dakota</u>
<u>Delaware</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Northern Mariana Islands</u>
<u>District of Columbia</u>	<u>Maine</u>	<u>O</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Maryland</u>	<u>Ohio</u>
<u>Florida</u>	<u>Massachusetts</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>
<u>Foreign or high-seas events</u>	<u>Michigan</u>	<u>Oregon</u>
<u>G</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>P</u>
<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
<u>Guam</u>		
<u>Puerto Rico</u>		
<u>R</u>		

Rhode Island

S

South Carolina

South Dakota

T

Tennessee

Texas

U

Utah

News from IRS

V

Vermont

Virginia

Virgin Islands

W

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming

PTIN renewal and registration for 2013 is now available.

A public database of tax preparers is coming soon. Update your [PTIN information](#) or become a [Registered Tax Return Preparer](#) (RTRP) today.

Don't have a PTIN? Or need an overview of the regulations that all paid tax return preparers must follow? Review a [summary](#).

For a list of “tax preparers in Beijing please click [here](#). Please note that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) DOES NOT endorse or recommend these, or any other commercial tax preparation services.

Happy Holidays
Happy Holidays

